

The Oregonian.

PORTLAND WEDNESDAY APRIL 27, 1867.

A LOST OPPORTUNITY.

A Confession (*etc.*) yesterday's *Advertiser* of John C. Calhoun was unenvied. There were censures and speeches and a letter from President Cleveland.

It is difficult to see what there is in all this, a renewal of devotions to the political philosophy of Calhoun, and it's certain that in such renewal there is nothing but for a heretic to the error and folly that he's brought about and who has upon South and her sister states.

A statesman, occupying the position of president of the United States, would have improved the opportunity to say some things which would have been an improvement to the country. In the letter he would have written the political heresies of a man who were inherited by Jefferson Davis and become the philosophy of the rebellion, would have received just characterization. Some letter, written by a president capable of meeting the right of the opportunity, would have gone into the impress of state paper, being a permanent and estimable value, and it would have made the name of an author famous far beyond anything Grover Cleveland has ever done or is likely to do.

The right word from the president of the United States on an occasion like this ought not to have been omitted. Still less ought there to emanate from the president of the United States, when states of men like John C. Calhoun and Albert Sidney Johnston are unenvied, the idea that these are men who deserve remembrance, the one for sound political philosophy, the other for worthy and glorious deeds in arms.

It is not apparent what should be inferred from these inspiring eulogies. If not that it's unfortunate for the country that Calhoun's political philosophy has not prevailed, and that Johnston did not win still greater fame by annihilation of Grant before Bell got up to reinforce him.

Grant that the president's letters were written out of courtesy, it remains to be said that courtesy requires sacrifice of principle. Let the Southern states be the unenvied of the world and of them all. No one would deny them that right. Nevertheless it becomes the president of the United States fitting occasion to say that American nationality rests on Webster and Grant, not on Calhoun and Sidney Johnston.

THE COMMISSION'S POLICY.

The interstate commissioners have gone south for the purpose of hearing statements about the workings and results of the interstate law in that quarter. On this mission they will visit Atlanta, Mobile, New Orleans and other cities. Through the Eastern press a new programme is foreshadowed, which it is expected they will adopt and pursue on their return.

It is impossible for the commission to investigate every wherein it is complained that the fourth section would be harsh. Hence it behoves that the action of this sort of thing will be taken "nor will the commission construe the law for suppositions cases, nor in advance of the presentation of specific cases.

Under all other laws people have to construe for themselves and act upon their own judgment, and upon this principle the commission is now said to be preparing to tell the railroad people that when the periods have expired for which they must judge the law for themselves and act accordingly. Then whoever is dissatisfied with a construction put upon the law by a railroad may present his case to the commission or to a federal court for adjudication.

Under this plan or policy a railroad may take the position, if it thinks fit, that freight shipped to or from a point where there is water computation is not shipped "under substantially similar circumstances and conditions" as freight shipped from a point where there is no such competition, as on an important question of law, the regular republican organs had held that in consequence of water computation the circumstances and conditions were not similar, much of the controversy is to long and short haul rates would be at an end.

A WIDE LUMBER MARKET.

Among the more important results of the incorporation of the O. R. & W. with the Union Pacific system will be the opening of a larger outlet for the products of our forests. Here, upon the lower Columbia, is the only place where the thousands of miles of railway in the Union Pacific system come in contact with timber in immense quantities. Upon the whole of the long line, and its many branches, there is indeed practically no timber. Western Oregon is reached. The Union Pacific system itself requires enormous quantities of lumber, and here it will obtain the greater part of its supply mainly from that quarter, amounting to over 500,000,000 feet.

Consumption of lumber by the roads of this system will require a large train to be loaded each day. The company can now haul the lumber from their own over its own rails, and will no longer be under necessity of paying tribute to other roads for the use of its lumber. Hence it will take little that comes from points beyond Portland and Walla Walla.

THE SEASIDE TAX ISSUES.

A letter from Newport, R. I., to the New York *Advertiser* says that the republican defeat in that state was due to a reaction from pro-slavery. There were large contributions of money from the higher dealers, Cleveland oil, tykes and coal dealers. The republicans had to be paid off to be seated, must have a decided majority. It has been a remarkable political except to provide patronage to some heads in order to bring them back into the fold, and avoid any posture declarations upon all leading questions.

If this was true of the republican party in 1863 it is true to-day, when the republican party not only has no decisive declared policy, but has no patronage to peddle. In his speech before the Republican Massachusetts Club at Boston last week, Senator Hoar said that "since the autumn of 1863 there has been nothing done in national legislation in this country which either of the great parties united to oppose." A confession explains the political apathy of both parties, they have been divided on the silver *etc.* on the drift, on the civil service law, on the internal commerce *etc.*, and on the acts regulating the presidential succession and electoral legislation. Mr. Hoar thinks, however, that in the next national campaign the republican party will have a clear issue upon which to go before the people and successfully appeal for votes.

The sense that Mr. Hoar suggests is the record the democratic administration has made during the last two years, for which he considers the repulsive policy of neglect in matters of no moment, has the effect of the tree that surpises the trifler and amazement of the many who follow the news. It is a new and interesting view to be taken of the world.

POSTPONED.—The above sale is postponed to Saturday, April 30.

STATEMENT FROM THE ADVERTISER.

YANKEE W. T. April 22.

To the Editor of THE OREGONIAN:

Under the heading of "Call to the Bar" there were some remarks in your paper of yesterday in regard to the hearings in the cases against J. B. Montgomery. Only the material mistakes—which can be corrected by the record—need be referred to, the others being too trivial to be worth notice.

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Price, \$2.00,

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